United Nations E/C.2/2010/2/Add.6

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 October 2009

Original: English

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2010 regular session
25 January-3 February 2010

Quadrennial reports for the period 2005-2008 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31*

Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

09-49995 (E) 021209

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1. Center for Reproductive Rights (Special; 1997)

I. Introduction

The Center for Reproductive Rights (the Center) is a non-profit legal advocacy organization that uses the law to advance reproductive freedom as a fundamental human right that all Governments are legally obligated to protect, respect and fulfil. We envision a world where every woman is free to decide whether and when to have children; where every woman has access to the best reproductive health care available; and where every woman can exercise her choices without coercion or discrimination. Using international human rights law to advance the reproductive freedom of women, the Center has strengthened reproductive health laws and policies across the globe by working with more than 100 organizations in 45 nations including countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations during the reporting period

Support for the work of the United Nations treaty monitoring bodies: The Center for Reproductive Rights regularly submitted shadow letters to various United Nations treaty monitoring bodies. Our letters supplement the periodic reports of Governments, thereby playing an essential role in providing a credible and reliable independent source of information.

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: The Center submitted seven shadow letters providing supplementary information to the Committee. These letters addressed reproductive rights in the following countries: El Salvador, for consideration during the thirty-seventh session in November 2006; Mexico (co-authored by the Grupo de Información en Reproducción Elegida) for consideration during the thirty-sixth session in May 2006; Nepal, for consideration during the thirty-eighth session in April/May 2007; Brazil, submitted to the fortieth pre-sessional working group in May 2008 and the Philippines, Kenya and Nicaragua, for consideration during the forty-first session in November 2008.

In addition, in October 2008, staff members from the Center participated in a joint lunch briefing with the Committee, which focused primarily on the situation of reproductive rights in Kenya, the Philippines and Nicaragua.

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW): The Center submitted 10 shadow letters covering the following countries: China, Mexico and the Philippines (co-authored by EnGendeRights, the Reproductive Rights Resource Group Philippines and the Health and Development Initiatives Institute) for consideration during the thirty-sixth session in August 2007; Malaysia, for consideration during the thirty-fifth session in May 2006; Thailand, for consideration during the thirty-fourth session in January 2006; Brazil and Kenya, for consideration during the thirty-ninth session in July 2007; India, for consideration during the thirty-seventh session in January 2007; Nigeria, for consideration during the forty-first session in June/July 2008 and Ecuador, for consideration during the forty-second session in October 2008.

In May 2007, the Center hosted a private briefing with members of CEDAW. The meeting was intended to provide Committee members with information on key

reproductive rights issues and trends and also to discuss the use of the Committee's concluding observations in our litigation and advocacy efforts. In addition, in July 2008, the Center hosted a briefing for CEDAW to discuss the current trends in reproductive rights.

In November 2007, the Center together with our Brazilian partner Citizen's Advocacy for Human Rights, filed the case *Alyne da Silva v. Brazil* before CEDAW. This case centres on the issue of avoidable maternal mortality in Brazil.

Human Rights Committee: The Center submitted two shadow letters to supplement the work of the Human Rights Committee during its review of the following countries: Kenya (co-authored by the Federation of Women Lawyers-Kenya) for consideration during the eighty-third session in March 2005 and Costa Rica, for consideration during the eighty-ninth session in March 2007.

Committee on the Rights of the Child: The Center submitted five shadow letters covering the following countries: Nepal, for consideration during the thirty-ninth session in May 2005; the Russian Federation, for consideration during the fortieth session in September 2005; Lithuania (co-authored by the Lithuanian Family Planning Association) for consideration during the forty-first session in January 2006; Colombia, for consideration during the forty-second session in May 2006 and Kenya (co-authored by the Federation of Women Lawyers-Kenya) for consideration during the forty-fourth session in January 2007.

Other activities in support of the work of the United Nations

Human Rights Council: In November 2007, the Center submitted letters to the Human Rights Council on Brazil, Ecuador, India and the Philippines, which were up for review during the first session of the universal periodic review. In April 2008, the Center co-hosted an NGO briefing focusing on reproductive rights in Ecuador, Brazil and the Philippines. Also for the universal periodic review, in September 2008, we submitted a shadow letter on Nigeria and in November 2008, together with the University of Diego Portales, we submitted a shadow letter on Chile.

Along with other NGOs, the Center worked successfully with the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health to encourage the Council to hold its first panel on maternal mortality and women's rights.

Commission on the Status of Women: In February 2005, during the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and on the occasion of Beijing+10, the Center hosted a panel discussion and workshop, "Giving Beijing the force of law: legal strategies for implementing the commitments of Beijing". In August 2008, the Center submitted two letters to the Commission covering, respectively, maternal mortality in Nigeria and the reproductive health needs of women affected by armed conflict in Nepal. Also, in September 2008, the Center filed a communication to the Commission regarding the case of a pregnant woman in Madhya Pradesh, India, who was denied medical assistance at the time of delivery due to her HIV-positive status.

United Nations agencies: Continuing a partnership begun in March 2003, the Center provided summaries of legal and policy developments in the area of reproductive rights to the United Nations Population Fund for an electronic newsletter for policymakers. Since 2006, the director of the Center's International Legal

Programme has served as an expert member of the Advisory Committee on Gender of the Department of Reproductive Health of the World Health Organization. In October 2006, a member of the Center's staff participated in a high-level United Nations consultation on the new joint statement on female genital mutilation, convened by WHO.

Publications to support the work of the United Nations: While all of the Center's publications aim to reinforce the human rights norms adopted at the United Nations and in regional bodies, two in particular are worth noting. In November 2008, the Center launched the updated edition of our signature publication, *Bringing Rights to Bear*, which analyses the comments, statements and recommendations produced by the United Nations treaty monitoring bodies and examines their potential for advancing and protecting women's reproductive rights.

In September 2008, on the occasion of a United Nations high-level event convened by the United Nations Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly to renew commitments to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the Center produced the briefing paper "Using the Millennium Development Goals to realize women's reproductive rights".

2. Cooperativa Tecnico Scientifica di Base (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Cooperativa Tecnico Scientifica di Base (COBASE) is a scientific independent non-profit organization which was constituted in 1978 by a team of researchers and professionals. COBASE is accredited to participate in the work of various international programmes and conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the World Summit on the Information Society, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. COBASE has been nominated as delegate of several delegations of the Government of Italy to the United Nations and the European Union. The Italian Minister of the Environment has nominated COBASE as a member of the World Commission on Environment and Development. The organization works with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) on issues related to world food security, climate change and biodiversity.

The aims of the organization: (a) to produce research, studies, publications and projects in the fields of sustainability: environment, food security, sustainable management of natural resources and renewable energy, biodiversity, climate change, water, sanitation and human settlements; to plan the fight against extreme poverty and hunger, and energetic and environmental systems using e-governance and capacity-building projects; (b) to formulate new strategies for cooperation with developing countries with a specific focus on industrial protection and security systems; (c) to formulate a cultural diversity-oriented approach to training and

education offline and online using databases and techniques for accessibility by the disabled and for surmounting the digital divide and the knowledge divide. COBASE also developed specific competencies in foodstuff production and sustainability; restoration and recovery of environmental, agricultural and architectonic patrimony; codes of Practice; renewable energy in agriculture; security and quality-control Procedures; food security; the environment and desertification; biological and cultural diversity systems; traditional knowledge systems and sustainable development Systems. COBASE is the promoter of the international projects "Diversity as a resource" and "Poverty knowledge" with the document entitled "Resolution of Rome: guidelines for the protection of cultural diversity" which encourages the appreciation of the importance of cultural diversity. COBASE has planned and realized air, water, electric and solar installations. COBASE has built several solar greenhouses and has been issued several patents by Italian Ministry of Industry. COBASE has developed environmental traffic plans. In the last few years COBASE has concentrated its research on the subject of biological and cultural diversity from a scientific and technical point of view and specialized in traditional knowledge systems.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization would have participated more in the implementation of United Nations programmes were it not for limited funds and staff (all volunteers), which made attendance at international meetings very difficult.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

2005: COBASE organized in Rome the food security campaign "Diversity as resource. Traditional knowledge for food security". This event was sponsored by the Italian Foreign Ministry and supported by the President of the Italian Republic and was a part of the official celebrations of World Food Day. Representatives of the organization attended in Rome the following meetings, all related to the food security and hunger eradication problem: (a) World Food Day celebrations at FAO headquarters; (b) FAO Council, 129th session; (c) FAO Conference, thirty-third session.

2006: COBASE organized in Rome a workshop on "investing in agriculture in the Syrian Arab Republic: agro-food security in the Mediterranean area, where the results of the COBASE project on the impact of desertification, watershed management and wildfires on rural development and poverty in the Latakia Governorate of Syria were presented. This event was sponsored by the Italian Foreign Ministry and supported by the President of the Italian Republic, and was a part of the official celebrations of World Food Day 2005. Representatives of the organization attended the following meetings: (a) "Migration and development. Challenges and opportunities for Euro-African relationships" organized by the Society for International Development; (b) World Congress on Communication for Development, organized by The Communication Initiative Network, FAO and the World Bank.

2007: COBASE organized in Rome the international seminar "Taking care of one's health with food. The right to a diet". This event was sponsored by the Italian Foreign Ministry and supported by the President of the Italian Republic and was a

part of the official celebrations of World Food Day 2007. Representatives of the organization attended the 20th World Energy Congress in Rome.

2008: COBASE organized in Rome the international seminar "Diversity as resource. Nutrition, knowledge, communication, rights". This event was sponsored by the Italian Foreign Ministry and supported by the President of the Italian Republic and was a part of the official celebrations of World Food Day 2008. Representatives attended the following meetings in Rome, all related to implementing the programme of work on terrestrial and marine protected areas and biodiversity protection problems: (a) second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas; (b) thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice; (c) FAO Technical Meeting of the National Correspondents to the Global Forest Resources Assessment; (d) Commission on Sustainable Development: sixteenth session (New York).

Furthermore, representatives attended the Durban Review Conference and its preparatory process in Geneva.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Association is the promoter of international projects on environmental and economic risks and sustainability management that, following an interdisciplinary approach and new strategies, propose to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and ensure sustainability. Among many, we note the following: (a) the project in the Syrian Arab Republic mentioned above; (b) the workshop "Risks and sustainability of land resources: the case study of Latakia", Syria; (c) the project "Communication and e-learning for sustainability", Tunis; (d) the elaboration of the project "Integrated and sustainable resources management in Syria" that has been approved by the Minister of Environment and Local Administration of the Syrian Arab Republic; (e) the elaboration of the project "Drought early warning system and network" that has been presented to the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform of Syria for approval and to the Governments of Jordan, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates; (f) the elaboration of the project "Participatory development of Al-Badia", that has been presented to the General Commission for Al-Badia Management and Development, Syria, for approval; elaboration of the project "Diversity as resource. Nutrition, knowledge, communication, rights"; elaboration of the project "Poverty knowledge".

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

COBASE developed the project "The factory of baobab. Taking care of one's health with food in Nigeria", with the Government of Nigeria. The project is a sustainable development and technical assistance project for the transformation of baobab, cassava and other plants from basic commodities into foodstuff, medicine and energy products. The programme meets the indications of goal 1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) and goal 7 (Ensure environmental sustainability) with the organization of research and planning laboratories in high-risk areas.

3. Citizens for Decent Housing (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Citizens for Decent Housing (CiDeH) is a non-profit organization established in 2001, which focuses on solving problems related to land and housing through citizens' campaigns based on research and knowledge about policy. The purpose of CiDeH is to increase citizens' awareness about their habitation and create a strong network among citizens, scholars, professionals and related institutes. Recently, CiDeH has been developing an international networking programme with NGOs in Asian countries with a focus on citizens' housing issues, especially access to welfare housing. One activity in the programme is supporting Asian NGOs' activities related to housing issues with a grant.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

CiDeH did not participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, nor in major conferences or other United Nations meetings during the reporting period because it focused its activities on research for alternatives for Korean housing issues (homelessness, urban planning, redevelopment of urban areas), improvement of public housing policy and increasing welfare in public housing.

Other activities

During the reporting period: (a) local government housing and welfare development and evaluation of indicators for evaluating research (January 2005), sponsored by the Ministry of Construction and Transportation of the Republic of Korea; (b) residential housing construction in Inchon, Republic of Korea (May 2005), sponsored by the Ministry of Construction and Transportation of the Republic of Korea, the Inchon Development Institute, the *Inchon Ilbo* newspaper, the *Gyeongin Ilbo* newspaper and ICN Inchon Broadcasting; (c) research on self-sufficiency in public housing complexes (July 2005), sponsored by the Korea Housing Corporation; (d) programme "Mother's handmade food" (July 2005 to December 2008, twice a year). The purpose of the programme was to provide lunches to children whose parents are working during school vacations (60 days per year) in public housing complexes; (e) improved the housing and welfare measures of the National Housing Fund Seminar, sponsored by the National Housing Fund of the Construction and Transportation Committee of the National Assembly (September 2005); (f) seminar "Rental housing insurance system" (April 2006); (g) project "Improving the city environment for the disabled" (August 2006-December 2008), sponsored by the Korea Land Corporation Making Green Social Committee; (h) ecological residential complex ideas competition (March/April 2007), sponsored by the Pides Development Company; (i) research on increasing the resettlement ratio in the redevelopment of a new town (May 2007), sponsored by the Construction and Transportation Committee of the National Assembly; (j) Asian Non-Profit Organization (NPO) Network for Adequate Housing (ANAH), first (2007) and second (2008) sessions, sponsored by the Korea Housing Corporation and the May 18 Memorial Foundation; (k) social service workers' programme in public rental housing complexes, sponsored by the Ministry of Construction and Transportation; (l) pilot project of ANAH in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (2008); (m) The

Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, the Korea Housing Corporation, CiDeH and the Ministry of Labour agreed to proceed with the "Pilot programme for social enterprises to create jobs and businesses" (2008); (n) programme to support poor people during the winter season (2008), sponsored by the Korea Housing Corporation.

The above activities were in line with Millennium Development Goal 1 (Eradicate extreme poverty).

4. Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

The aim of Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE) is to reduce crime and uplift society through restorative justice. Its actions are directed towards raising public awareness of both the problems and the potential in the world's criminal justice systems. This includes advocacy for major reforms and for investment in social and economic development of marginalized persons. The reporting period has seen a major expansion of the international efforts by CURE. It now has chapters in 33 countries and contacts in 89 countries.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

2006: Presented a verbal statement at the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women titled "Rehabilitative justice for women in prison", calling on States to establish a rehabilitation and re-entry task force or other relevant convening authority to examine ways to establish or secure resources and funding for programmes and policies to promote family preservation and lower recidivism rates for returning women prisoners and to minimize the harmful effects of incarceration on families and communities.

2007: (a) Visited, for the NGO Committee for Social Development, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations to discuss the Committee's survey of effective practices for promoting employment and decent work; education of the poor, and prisoner rehabilitation; (b) Provided a PowerPoint presentation to the NGO Committee titled "Crime, the incarcerated, and social development", explaining the roots of crime in poverty and a lack of social development.

2008: (a) CURE submitted a written statement to the forty-sixth session of the Committee for Social Development, titled "Poverty, prisons, and social development", citing examples of both prisoner abuse and illustrative rehabilitation programmes; (b) CURE presented its report to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States. This included data on human rights concerns, notable rehabilitation programmes, and recommendations for criminal justice reform in the Americas.

Other activities

2005: Worked with about 100 volunteer activists in 30 countries of the western hemisphere to collect data on prisons and justice in those countries, including issues of human rights, prisoner abuse, health and education.

2006: Produced and distributed the 112-page book *Dignity of the Individual* reporting on our evaluation of the prisons and justice in 35 countries in North, South and Central America and the Caribbean.

2007: Produced and distributed a 150-page second edition of *Dignity of the Individual* in the languages of each country (Spanish, Portuguese, French and English).

2008: CURE made a PowerPoint presentation to the NGO Committee for Social Development titled "Employability and restorative programmes", citing the needs of incarcerated persons with little education and alcohol or drug addictions, and citing examples of job-skill development in prisons.

5. Cultural Survival (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Cultural Survival (CS) is a non-profit organization that has partnered since 1972 with indigenous groups around the world to secure and protect their rights under international and national law; ensure their full and effective participation in the political, economic and social life of the country in which they live; and to retain their lands, resources, languages and cultures. The organization currently is working with indigenous peoples in Guatemala, Panama, Kenya, Brazil and the United States, and is promoting indigenous peoples' rights at the United Nations and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. In addition to its advocacy and empowerment activities, Cultural Survival works to increase global understanding of indigenous peoples' rights, cultures and concerns. The organization publishes the award-winning magazine *Cultural Survival Quarterly* and maintains the world's largest and most respected archive of materials about indigenous peoples on its website: www.cs.org. In addition, through its website and e-newsletter, the organization educates the public and advocacy volunteers about violations of indigenous peoples' rights, and solicits their involvement in letter-writing campaigns.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Cultural Survival played an active role each year in the annual sessions of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: (a) participated in Permanent Forum sessions; (b) provided free copies of Cultural Survival publications, including the *Cultural Survival Quarterly* and Voices (a newsletter for indigenous peoples), to delegates participating in the Permanent Forum; (c) hosted official side events including: American Indian/Native Hawai'ian language revitalization: bringing indigenous languages home through community-based programmes (2008); Exercising rights — good practice: a session on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Broadcasting human rights to indigenous communities: a session on the use of community radio in promoting human rights information (2009).

Cultural Survival played an active role in promoting the adoption by the United Nations Human Rights Council, Economic and Social Council and General

Assembly of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Specific activities included: (a) preparation in 2006 of a special edition of Voices, in four languages, in collaboration with the Indigenous Peoples Caucus, that focused on the importance of adopting the declaration and addressed specific concerns of Member States; (b) a multi-year education campaign directed at Member States to encourage support for the declaration.

Cultural Survival submitted reports to the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council regarding State practice in relation to respect for the rights of indigenous peoples. To date, Cultural Survival has submitted reports for the Working Group's consideration on the following States' practices: Ecuador (2007), Morocco (2007), South Africa (2007), Belize (2008), Guatemala (2008), Japan (2008) and New Zealand (2008).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

In 2005, Cultural Survival co-hosted, along with the University of Arizona College of Law, the United Nations Expert Seminar on Implementation of National Legislation and Jurisprudence Concerning Indigenous Peoples' Rights: Experiences from the Americas. The outcome of this seminar was widely distributed to States and to indigenous participants at the fifth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2006. Since 2005, Cultural Survival has provided in-depth information to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people on situations and cases involving violations of the rights of indigenous peoples on which Cultural Survival has worked.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 3: Gender equality: (a) In 2005 published a special edition of the *Cultural Survival Quarterly* entitled "Women the world must hear" which featured the voices and concerns of indigenous women who face "double discrimination" as indigenous people and as women. Since that time, Cultural Survival has continued to profile indigenous women in a special feature in each issue of the magazine; (b) Partnered with two Maasai development organizations — Maasai Education Discovery and the Simba Maasai Outreach Organization — both of which provide education to girls, particularly those who seek an education rather than being pressured into marriage at very young ages.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases (targets 1 and 3): In 2007 and 2008 produced and distributed 91 radio programmes about health (including HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases) to community radio stations in 168 villages in Guatemala.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability (targets 1 and 3): (a) In 2005 published a special edition of the *Cultural Survival Quarterly* entitled *Water Rights and Indigenous Peoples*; (b) In 2008 published a special edition of the *Cultural Survival Quarterly* entitled *Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples* which was widely disseminated to the media and to indigenous peoples' organizations worldwide.

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development (target 5): (a) A signature feature of Cultural Survival's partnerships with indigenous peoples helped in building networks that linked isolated indigenous groups that have similar problems with one another so that they benefited from shared information, problem-solving techniques, resources and training. Cultural Survival's Guatemala Radio Programme, a network of 168 community radio stations in Guatemala broadcast to over 1 million indigenous Maya, provided the stations with training, radio content, equipment and management advice. With this support, the individual stations broadcast news, local music, Mayan language cultural programmes, and public service content on environmental protection, health, democratic participation and sustainable development. Cultural Survival is now constructing an Internet-based distribution platform to improve the radio stations' access to content; (b) In 2008 CS constructed an Internet-based "virtual network" for endangered Native American language revitalization programmes based in the United States. This new platform enabled the programmes to share language revitalization methodologies and teaching techniques, fund-raising strategies, support services, and other information so that each programme progressed without having to "reinvent the wheel".